

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 100825Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH KS KW

SUBJ: PRC STANCE ON KOREA

REF: SEOUL 4365 AND 4367

SUMMARY: TWO RECENT PRC EDITORIALS PICKING UP ON DPKR STATE-
MENTS HAVE STRESSED URGENCY OF U.S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM
AND CESSATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA.
CONSIDERED IN LARGER CONTEXT, HOWEVER, THESE EDITORIALS AND
OTHER RECENT PRC ACTIVITIES DO NOT APPEAR TO US TO REFLECT A
MAJOR SHIFT IN PRC POLICIES TOWARDS TOUGHER OVER-ALL STANCE
ON KOREAN ISSUE. ON THE CONTRARY, AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS
THAT IN SEEKING TO DRAW PYONGYANG CLOSER TO THE PRC AND AWAY
FROM THE USSR, PEKING IS STRESSING A STRONGER ENDORSEMENT OF
THE DPRK PROPOSALS BUT VERY MUCH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF KIM
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IL -SUNG'S REUNIFICATION PROPOSALS ALONG PEACEFUL LINES.

END SUMMARY

1. SINCE ABOUT 1970, CHINA'S POSITION ON KOREA HAS MOVED FROM ONE OF A STRIDENT CALL FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISMS IN KOREA TO A PLAYING UP OF THE MORE MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY OF THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS AND PROGRAM WHICH ADVOCATE A PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THIS EMPHASIS WAS A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THE 1972 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL OF JUNE 25 WHICH DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE NEW KIM IL-SUNG PROPOSALS (1972 HONG KONG 4362). IN JUNE 1973, THE PRC MEDIA STRONGLY ENDORSED THE NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT'S FIVE POINT-PROGRAM OF EARLY APRIL AND IN PARTICULAR KIM'S CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE (WK 26, 1973, HONG KONG 6436). NOW WHEN RECENT INCIDENTS (SUCH AS THE LATE JUNE COASTAL CLASHES) COULD INDICATE SOME RISE IN TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, PEKING HAS AGAIN UNDERSCORED ITS DESIRE FOR THE REALIZATION OF KOREAN REUNIFICATION ALONG NON-MILITARY LINES OUTLINED BY PYONGYANG (HONG KONG 7583). WHILE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) CARRIED EXCERPTS OF JUNE 25 TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR DPRK RALLY STATEMENTS ACCUSING U.S. OF INSTIGATING -PAK CLIQUE "TO HAVE A TEST OF STRENGTH WITH US AND TO WAGE A NEW WAR", THE CHINESE THEMSELVES HAVE NOT REPORTED THAT THEME. NCNA REPORTED EXCERPTS OF DPRK STATEMENTS AT THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION MEETING ALLEGING U.S. ROK-MILITARY "PROVOCATION" AND ARMISTICE VIOLATIONS ALSO ARE NOTABLY LESS BELLIGERENT AND STRIDENT THAN THE KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPORTS. WE NOTE THAT DURING CURRENT HEAVY DPRK PROPAGANDA ROUND IT WAS RODONG SINMUN'S 24TH ANNIVERSARY KOREAN WAR EDITORIAL ON JUNE 25 WHICH DEMANDED U.S. CESSATION OF MILITARY AID TO AND PULLOUT OF U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA "AT ONCE".

2. THE JUNE 25, 1974 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL DID PICK UP RODONG SINMUN'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO THE PAK CLIQUE BUT OFFERED NO TIME FRAME FOR THE CURRENT CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS. SHIFTING GEARS, THE JULY 4, 1974 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL DEMANDED IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY AID. HAD PEKING INTENDED TO SET FORTH A MAJOR NEW STANCE WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A MORE CONSISTENT FORMULATION. FURTHERMORE, AN NCNA JULY 3, 1974 ARTICLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY A "HSINHUA CORRESPONDENT" SIGNIFICANTLY OMITTED EXPLICIT PRC DEMANDS FOR EITHER WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES OR FOR AN END TO U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. WHILE MASS MOBILIZATION RALLIES SUPPORTING FOREIGN ISSUES HAVE NOT BEEN A CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION PERIOD, SEVERAL RALLIES HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY IN SUPPORT OF THE "KOREAN PEOPLE" AND REUNIFICATION. BUT THE

SHANGHAI WORKERS AND SHENGYANG STUDENT S RALLIES OF JUNE 29 AND THAT OF JULY 3 OF PEKING WORKERS , HOUTH AND WOMEN WERE BOTH BASICALLY LOCAL MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS , REPEATING STANDARD PRC THEMES AND POSITION. AT THE JUNE 29 SHANGHAI RALLY, YEH CHANG-MING, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL, VOICED THE CALL FOR WITHDRAWLA OF U.S. TROOPS AND MILITARY IINSTALLATIONS AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF U.S. MILITARY AID SO AS TO ALLOW FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

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ACCORDING TO NCNA REPORTS, THESE ISSUES WERE NOT TOUCHED ON BY OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE SHANGHAI, PEKING OR SHENYANG RALLIES, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A STRONGER LINE TO EMANATE FROM SHANGHAI WHICH IS THE STRONGHOLD OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION IDEOLOGUES. AT THE PEKING RALLY, WHILE THE ATTENDANCE OF POLITBURO MEMBERS WU TEH AND NI CHIH-FU AND ALTERNATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER CHANG SHIH-CHUNG SEEMED TO CONNOTE A DEGREE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, THE THREE LEADERS WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED BY THEIR PEKING MUNICIPAL GOVERN-

MENT TITLES. IN ADDTION, OF THE THREE , ONLY CHANG SPOKE,
AND THEN ONLY TO PROVIDE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS STRESSING THE COMMON
MILITANT BONDS LINKING THE CHINESE AND KOREAN PEOPLES. THE SIZE
AND NATURE OF THESE RALLIES WERRE NOT DESCRIBEC BY NCNA AND THIS
IN ITSELF CONTRASTS WITH THE WAY PEKING PLAYED UP THE "GRAND
RALLY" OF APRIL 3, 1974 STAGED IIN CONNECTION WITH THE PEKING VISIT
OF COMBODIAN INSURGENT LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN WHICH INDUCED A KEY-
NOTE ADDRESS BY RISING PRC STAR WANG HUNG-WEN. WE NOTE THA THE
JUNE 27-28 TRANSIT STOP IN PEKING OF DPRK MILITARY DELGATION
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ENGENDERED NO RALLIES NOR MAJOR STATEMENTS FROM THE CHINESE.

4. THESE RECENT INSTANCES OF THE PRC REPREATING PYONGYANG'S DE-
MAND FOR AN IMMEDIATE U.S. WITHDRAWL FOLLOW RECENT DPRK-ROK SEA
CLASHES AS WELL AS THE LATE MAY VISIT OF PRC CEPUTY CHIEF OF THE
GENERAL STAFF, LITA, TO THE DPRK. THAT VISIT PLUS OTHER RECENT
PRC ACTIVITIES AND RALLIES ALL SEEM TO REFLECT A MOVE DESIGNED
TO STRENGTHEN CHINA'S INFLUENCE AND TIES WITH NORTH KOREA AND
SPECIFICALLY TO DRAW PYONGYANG AWAY FROM MOSCOW AND CLOSER
TO PEKING. HOWEVER, IN DOING SO PEKING DOES NOT APPEAR TO US
TO BE MOVING BACK PER SE TO A TOUGHER STANCE. INSEAD IT IS COUCHING
THESE ACTIONS VERY MUCH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION
PROPOSALS PUT FOWARD BY KIM IL-SUNG. THUS WHILE THERE IS A
STRONGER PRC ENDORSEMENT OF DPRK PROPOSALS ON WITHDRAWLA OF
U. S. TROOPS AND CESSATION OF U.S. AID, IT DOES NOT REPRESENT A
TOUGHER OVER-ALL STANCE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. WHILE WE WILL,
OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO WATHC PRC TREATMENT ON THESE ISSUES, WE
DO NOT AT THIS TIME CONCLUDE THAT THEY REPRESENT A MAJOR SHIFT
IN CHINA'S STANCE TOWARD TO KOREAN PROBLEM.
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